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HOLY CROSS

**WALTHAM HOLY CROSS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1945

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman,
Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report and that of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1945 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

The health of the district after six years of war must be regarded as remarkably good, as judged by the death rate and the incidence of infectious disease. The infantile mortality rate is referred to at the end of this section.

It is hardly necessary to say that the most pressing social need is for houses and probably next to this, steps to improve the lot of old people and the so called chronic sick. The serious lack of hospital accommodation owing to shortage of staff and the extreme difficulty in obtaining help in the home has reduced many old people to a sorry plight. We are an ageing population and the need for hospital beds and hostels for the aged will continue. In addition there is a strong case for providing houses and bungalows suitable for old people on all housing estates. To quote from a recent leading article on the subject in the 'Lancet'; "The more intelligently and kindly a community look after its old people, the less the need for expensive institutional care given domestic help, nursing care and medical attention when needed, many old people who now die after years in hospital could live interesting and possibly useful lives, finally dying triumphantly in their own beds."

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	10,959
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid-year 1945	...	...	...	6,670
Rateable value	...	...	...	£56,194
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£217 10s.

Vital Statistics.

		Male	Female	Total
Live births	{ Legitimate	51	47	98
	{ Illegitimate	2	3	5
				— —
				103
				— —

Birth rate per 1,000 resident population ... 15.4

		Male	Female	Total
Still births	{ Legitimate	1	3	4
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—
				— —
				4
				— —

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 37.3

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths	...	43	31	74

Death rate per 1,000 resident population ... 11.0

Death rate of infants under 1 year :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 106

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 97

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0
Deaths from Road traffic accidents	...	...	0
Deaths from other violent causes (including deaths from enemy action)	...	...	8
Maternal deaths	...	...	0

Comment on Vital Statistics.

The population decreased, according to the Registrar-General's estimate from 6,820 to 6,670.

The birth rate fell from 19.2 to 15.4.

The death rate fell from 12.9 to 11.0.

The infantile mortality rate rose from 38 to 106.

This latter figure represents 11 infants deaths and it should be borne in mind that with the relatively small figure of 100 births, every infant death raises the infantile mortality rate by 10. An analysis of these 11 deaths shows that 8 of them were in infants living for less than four weeks and were the result of prematurity and other congenital abnormalities which with our present knowledge cannot be regarded as preventable; of the remaining 3 deaths, 2 were due to pneumonia and 1 to mastoid disease.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1945.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adm. County	Waltham Holy Cross
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population:—				
Live Births ...	16.1	19.2	15.7	15.4
Still Births ...	0.46	0.53	0.40	5.49
DEATHS:—				
All causes ...	11.4	12.3	13.8	11.0
Typhoid & Para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.01	0.02	—
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Influenza ...	0.08	0.07	0.07	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.02	0.02	0.01	—

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—

Deaths under 1 year of age ...	46	43	53	106
Deaths from Diar- rhœa and Enter- itis under 2 years of age ...	5.6	4.5	7.6	—

NOTIFICATIONS:—

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.00	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.06	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1.89	2.03	1.57	0.74
Whooping Cough ...	1.64	1.47	1.25	2.24
Diphtheria ...	0.46	0.56	0.31	—
Erysipelas ...	0.25	0.24	0.31	0.14
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles ...	11.67	11.19	9.03	8.98
Pneumonia ...	0.87	0.72	0.78	0.14

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in Area.

(a) Laboratory Service.

E.M.S. Laboratory at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

(b) Ambulance Service.

No change. The Volunteer Car Pool and its successor, the Hospital Car Service, played a valuable part in conveying patients to hospital, clinics, etc., and our thanks are due to the drivers.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

No change.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Clinics are held at the County Council Combined Treatment Centre, The Cedars, Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey :—

Child Welfare Centre—Friday afternoons, 2 p.m.

Minor Ailments Clinic, including Diphtheria

Immunisation—1st and 3rd Monday, 2 p.m.

Dental and Eye Clinics—by arrangement.

Ante-natal Clinic—1st Thursday, 1.30 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—County Council Clinic,
Regents Road, Epping—Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.
to 1 p.m.

The War-time Day Nursery established in 1943 continued to prove its usefulness. The health of the children was excellent.

(e) Hospitals.

No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) **Water.** No change.
- (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** No change.
2. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** No change.
- (ii) **Public Cleansing.** No change.
- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—**

NUISANCE INSPECTION :—

No. of inspections made in 1945	...	400
No. of nuisances outstanding from 1944		Nil
No. of nuisances abated during 1945	...	128
No. of summones or other legal action		1
No. of statutory notices	... ..	1

DISINFECTION :

No. of visits re cleansing and disinfection after infectious disease	...	21
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PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS :

No. of licences granted	19
No. of inspections	30
Carbide of Calcium Licences	...	Nil
Cellulose Licences	... ..	1

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919:

The Sanitary Inspector is the Rodent Officer for the Authority under the Act. Ninety-four inspections were made during the year. Seventeen premises were found to be infested by rats. All complaints of infestation were investigated and advice given, as to the best methods of combating the nuisance under varying conditions.

Work under the Infestation Order, 1943, was effected by three Wardens who had been trained in the methods of destruction favoured by the Ministry of Food. In January, the systematic baiting of sewers was commenced, but had to be abandoned because of enemy action. The Wardens ceased to be available when the Civil Defence Service was disbanded. During the time they were available they achieved a fair measure of success. The number of direct complaints continues to fall. In a number of cases, the dispensing of rat biscuits (in accordance with the Council's policy) has been successful in ridding premises of rats.

Agricultural premises are dealt with by the Essex War Agricultural Executive Committee.

During the year Workable Area Committees were set up under the Ministry of Food; our Authority being in Area No. 8. Meetings are held quarterly when experience is pooled to the benefit of all concerned.

(iv) Shops Acts, 1934.

All premises under this heading were visited and found to comply with the provisions of the above Act. Ninety-six visits were made.

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT.

No. of persons registered as manufacturers and vendors	...	...	10
No. of persons registered as vendors	...		19
No. of Inspections	...	...	26

(v) Camping Sites.

No. of sites used for camping during 1945	...	3
No. of sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority	...	17
No. of campers during 1945	...	60

The sites are provided with separate privy accommodation for the sexes, an adequate supply of water, in the majority of cases from the mains, and also with sufficient covered refuse receptacles.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

One complaint was received during the year regarding the emission of smoke from the chimney of a local factory. A personal visit to the premises concerned resulted in an improvement being obtained. The inferior quality of coal being supplied to factories renders difficult the task of preventing nuisance being caused by its burning.

(vii) Swimming Bath.

No change.

SECTION D.

Housing.

(a)	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year	326
(b)	Works of repair were effected at the follow- ing number of houses	... 46
(c)	Demolition Orders made	... 1
(d)	Statutory Notices	... Nil

The effective application of the Housing Act has not been possible during the war. Efforts have been made to ensure that all premises are kept in a reasonable state of repair. With the intensifying of enemy action culminating in building materials and labour being controlled for War Damage Repairs, ordinary house repairs were forced into the background.

During the year inspections of the Council's Housing Estates were made and it is pleasing to report the high standard of cleanliness referred to in previous reports has been maintained. Having regard to the critical times I think this is all the more creditable.

SECTION E.

Inspection of Food.

Milk Supply.

All premises where milk is produced or retailed are visited regularly, and strict supervision is exercised to ensure the clean production and handling of milk.

No. of Cowkeepers on Register	...	18
No. of Retailers who are also producers	...	8
No. of Retailers only	... ..	5
No. of Inspections	... ..	276
Approximate number of milch cows	...	750
No. of premises producing Accredited Milk		6
No. of premises producing Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	3

Supplementary Licences for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-1943, were granted as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	5
Pasteurised Milk	... ..	5

Meat and Other Foods.

A cattle market and a general market are held on Tuesday of each week, where the sale of food is supervised. Seventy-two inspections were made.

Satisfactory conditions were found to prevail in all premises where food is prepared, exposed or stored for sale.

The practice of washing and disinfecting vehicles conveying livestock to and from the Cattle Market was continued throughout 1945.

All slaughtering is effected at the Ministry of Food Depot, Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey. The following animals were inspected during the year:—

46	Bulls
837	Steers and Heifers
1,625	Cows
257	Calves
1,417	Sheep and Lambs
713	Pigs
<hr/>	
4,895	Total
<hr/>	

The following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

42	Bovine carcasses complete
251	„ lungs
62	„ spleens
13	„ hearts
340	„ livers
3	„ tails
116	„ heads and tongues
4	„ heads
71	„ complete sets of organs and offal
21	„ skirts
1	„ flank
25	„ forequarters
7	„ hindquarters
1	Calves carcase
1	„ head
14	„ plucks
1	„ complete set of organs and offal
16	Sheep carcasses
32	„ heads and tongues
23	„ livers
15	„ lungs

79	Sheep	plucks
5	„	paunches
4	„	legs
1	„	neck and shoulder
7	„	complete sets of organs and offal
23	Pigs'	carcasses
38	„	heads
7	„	lungs
14	„	livers
38	„	plucks
38	„	plucks and fats
4	„	spleens
2	„	complete sets of organs and offal
1	„	hindquarter
1	„	forequarter
2	„	legs
1	Lambs'	carcase
1	„	head
5	„	plucks
1	„	neck

Miscellaneous:—

1 leg of veal
3 tripes
2 haunches
1 loin of beef

Total weight of meat surrendered—19 tons, 1 cwt.,
2 qrs., 5 lbs.

The policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of “weeding-out” doubtful animals from farm stock continues to contribute to the quantity of unfit meat surrendered. Casualty animals are also a contributory factor. Enemy action was responsible for a number of casualty animals during the early part of the year.

Taking a bovine carcase at 600 lbs.

„	a pig's	„	„	100 lbs.
„	a sheep's	„	„	50 lbs.
„	a calf's	„	„	50 lbs.

the percentage of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption was 2.52%. This figure is approximate only, the actual weight of condemned meat being compared with the estimated weight of meat killed. The figure is a moderate one.

Inspections at Cooked Meat Factory ... 68
Conditions prevailing at the factory are good.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are nine slaughtermen licensed under the Act.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

All premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale, were inspected regularly during the year and satisfactory conditions were found to prevail in every instance.

The following articles of food were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

19 tins baked beans	40 tins evaporated milk
2 „ meat and vegetables	3 „ skimmed milk
10 „ sardines	11 „ luncheon meat
9 „ pilchards	1 „ spam
2 „ herrings	15 „ sausage meat
1 „ mackerel	40 „ soup
2 „ salmon	4 „ marmalade
11 „ condensed milk	4 „ chopped ham
3 tins golden syrup	1 tin dried milk
35½ lbs. cheese	4 lbs. bacon
89 „ jam	48 „ rolled oats

34 $\frac{1}{4}$ „ confectionery	30 „ fruit cake
1 „ margarine	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ butter
1 „ ground ginger	2 „ mixed spice
42 „ peas	33 „ rice
23 „ macaroni	17 „ haricot beans
34 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ sultanas	10 „ apple rings
98 „ sugar	9 „ biscuits
19 „ lard	9 „ dripping
12 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ tea	31 pkts. dates
2 doz. pkts. gravy powder	2 doz. pkts. batter flour
3 „ „ baking powder	6 „ „ egg powder
11 „ „ cake powder	1 „ „ custard „
2 „ „ lump salt	6 „ „ blancmange
	powder
3 „ „ pea flour	1 „ „ sage and onion
	stuffing
3 „ „ mustard	3 pkts. cereal
6 jars beef extract	12 bottles lemon squash
18 „ pickles	72 fish cakes
2 sacks Cornish broccoli	

Enemy action was responsible to some extent for rendering foods unfit for human consumption.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Twenty-one such samples were obtained during the year. As a matter of courtesy, firms are notified after a sample has been obtained. Four samples of Pasteurised milk failed to pass the Phosphatase Test. The firms concerned were duly notified. There was a difference of opinion between the firms Analysts and the Public Analysts regarding the efficacy of the Test and as to whether the correct methods of examination were applied. Subsequent samples passed the Test.

Factories Act, 1937.

All factories in the district were inspected regularly and satisfactory conditions were found to prevail on all premises.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

There was an epidemic of measles which reached its peak in April and rapidly subsided in May and June. Apart from this the incidence of all the epidemic diseases was below the average. One case only of diphtheria was notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed after admission to hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation clinics were held regularly at The Cedars and particulars of the number of children treated are given below :—

	Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total
1943	79	67	146
1944	55	20	75
1945	88	15	103

The district has been completely free of diphtheria during the past two years but it would be unwise to attribute this solely to immunisation, as the disease is notoriously erratic in delivering its attacks and a much longer period must elapse with a high percentage of the child population protected before forming a final judgment on our efforts.

Notifiable Diseases during the last five years.

Disease	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Scarlet Fever ...	41	49	18	5	5
Diphtheria ...	2	9	6	0	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	8	1	4	7	1
Erysipelas ...	1	2	2	1	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	2	1	0	0	3
Measles ...	87	9	202	6	60
Whooping Cough ...	56	11	3	22	15
Cerebro-Spinal Men- ingitis ...	1	1	1	1	0

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Admission to Hospital and Deaths, 1945.

Disease	Total cases notified	Admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	5	5	0
Diphtheria ...	1*	1	0
Erysipelas ...	1	1	0
Pneumonia ...	1	1	0
Measles ...	60	6	0
Whooping Cough ...	15	0	0
Dysentery ...	5	5	0
† Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	3	0
† Ophthalmia Neonotorum	1	1	0

Note : * Diagnosis not confirmed.

† Cases in Sun Trap Maternity Home.

In addition three cases of streptococcal throat were admitted to Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	0

The total number of new cases notified was the same as in the previous year but there were two deaths only, compared with seven in 1944.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector for his help during the year, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support.

Yours obediently,

L. S. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

